

Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company Building
(Penn Mutual Building)
Northeast corner of Third and Dock Streets
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1451

HABS
PA,
51-PHILA,
406-

PHOTOGRAPH

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS
PA
51- PHILA
406-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY
PENNSYLVANIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)		HABS NO.
PENN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY BUILDING		PA-1451
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
Penn Mutual Building		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)		
Northeast corner of Third and Dock Streets		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
1850-51	G. Parker Cummings, architect; Joseph Singerly, builder.	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)		
The first cast-iron building in Philadelphia, and one of the earliest cast-iron buildings in the nation. A new method of jointing and bolting cast-iron plates was used. The building was demolished in the Fall of 1956.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
Italianate		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)		
Cast-iron with brick party walls.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)		
Measured 19'-11 1/2" (three-bay front) X 32'-10"; five stories.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE		
In addition to cast-iron sheathing, there were round-arch windows and doors, decorative window hoods and bracketed cornices. Originally, a niche containing a 600 lb. statue of William Penn was over the main entrance. The statue was later placed in the lobby of the Penn Mutual Building, 530 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
The interior was "elaborately finished", according to R.A. Smith's <u>Philadelphia as It is</u> 1852, p. 111.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)		
Webster, Richard. <u>Philadelphia Preserved</u> . Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1976. Smith, R.A. <u>Philadelphia as It is 1852</u> . Philadelphia: Lindsay and Blakiston, 1852		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION	DATE	
Susan McCown, Historic American Buildings Survey	May 15, 1984	